Advent Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 10, 2017

4:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
— Isaiah 7:14

Welcome to Washington National Cathedral and this service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God’s message of love and redemption. The liturgy itself embodies the sense of Advent movement — through the choir’s processions and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.
CARILLON PRELUDE

Three carillon preludes for Advent
Rejoice, believers - in Baroque style
There’s a voice in the wilderness - in modal style
Prepare the way, O Zion - in tonal style

Geert D’hollander (b. 1965)

ORGAN PRELUDE

Est ist ein Ros’ entsprungen
Meditation on ‘Picardy’
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

INTROIT

A tender shoot

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted from Jesse’s holy race.
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us, from Jesse’s root should spring.
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless might, gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

(Anonymous 16th century German, translated by William Bartholomew, 1793–1867)

The people stand at the procession.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION • 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Choir sings the first stanza; then all sing

Veni, veni, Emmanuel
THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this City of Washington.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The people are seated.
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

CAROL

Veni Domine

Sung in Latin.

Come, Lord, and do not delay.
Visit us with your peace
so that we can rejoice in your presence with hearts made pure.

Come, Lord, and as a mother consoles her children,
so shall you comfort us,
and we shall see you and our hearts will rejoice.

The Second Lesson • Isaiah 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.” A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.
The Third Lesson • Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Carol

Jesus Christ the apple tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The tree of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne’er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have brought:
I missed of all; but now I see
‘Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I’m weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

(From Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith, 1784)
The Fourth Lesson • Micah 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Carol

There is a flower

This flow'r is fair and fresh of hue,
It fadeth never, but ever is new;
The blessed branch this flow'r on grew
Was Mary mild that bare Jesu;
A flow'r of grace:
Against all sorrow it is solace.

When that fair flow'r began to spread
And his sweet blossom began to bed,
Then rich and poor of ev'ry land
They marvell'd how this flow'r might spread,
Till kinges three
That blessed flow'r came to see.

The seed hereof was Goddes sand
That God himself sowed with his hand,
In Nazareth, that holy land,
Amidst her arbour a maiden found;
This blessed flow'r
Sprang never but in Mary's bower.

Angels there came from heaven's tower
To look upon this freshele flow'r;
How fair he was in his coulour
And how sweet in his savour;
And to behold
How such a flow'r might spring in gold.

When Gabriel this maid did meet,
With ' Ave Maria' he did her greet;
Between them two this flow'r was set
And safe was kept, no man should wit,
Till on a day
In Bethlem it could spread and spray.

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree,
The root thereof is called Jesse,
A flow'r of price;
There is none such in paradise.

(John Audley, 15th century)

The Fifth Lesson • Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
CAROL

Drop down, ye heavens

Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Be not very angry, O Lord,
neither remember our iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers prais'd thee.

We have sinn'd, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses,
saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
fear not, for I will save thee:
for I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.
(The Advent Prose)

THE SIXTH LESSON • ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

The people stand.

HYMN • 76

On Jordan’s bank

Winchester New

The people are seated.
The Seventh Lesson • Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The people stand.

HYMN • 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

THE VESPER RESPONSORY

Leader Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you,

Leader Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you,

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Leader We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.

People In the midst of your temple.

A COLLECT FOR ADVENT

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming: grant that we, who with joy receive your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.
THE BLESSING & REDEDICATION OF THE HIGH ALTAR FRONTAL

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. This is the offering which you shall receive: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet cloth, and finely woven linen. Be with us now and bless this altar frontal to your praise and adoration.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness:
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

O glorious God, all your works proclaim your perfect beauty: Accept our offering of this altar frontal, and grant that it may adorn this sanctuary and show forth your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people are seated.

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s work of sharing God’s love with the world.

CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come [Paul Manz (1919-2009)]

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Rejoice in heaven,
all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

(Revelation 22)

The people stand.

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
THE ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J. S. Bach

CARILLON POSTLUDE

Paraphrase on ‘O come, O come, Emmanuel’

Albert C. Gerken (b. 1937)

The refurbishment of the High Altar Advent Frontal was given to the glory of God by David R. Bender, PhD and D. Philip Baker in celebration of our rich and rewarding associations with this splendid house of worship for all people.
SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

CLERGY

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Provost

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan
Canon for Worship

The Reverend Dana Colley Corsello
Vicar

The Reverend Andrew K. Barnett
Associate for Music and Worship

The Reverend Dr. Olivia P. L. Hilton

The Reverend Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.

MUSICIANS

Canon Michael McCarthy
Director of Music

The Reverend Benjamin Pearce Straley
Organist and Associate Director of Music

George Fergus
Assistant Organist

Dr. Edward M. Nassor
Cathedral Carillonneur

The Girls Cathedral Choir

READERS

Quincy Corsello
Ben Vacher
Theodora Hughes
Margaret Guthrie
Alex Robbins

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The Girls Cathedral Choir

VERGERS

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas
Head Cathedral Verger

Kevin R. Thomas
Cathedral Verger

Jane Gilchrist, Joyce A. Michelini

For information on Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral:
cathedral.org/christmas


The Advent greens throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. Advent Wreath at the mid nave: in loving memory of Sarah Stewart Scarborough; Advent Wreath in St. Mary’s Chapel; Advent Wreath in Bethlehem Chapel: in memory of Joan Sager Vandemark.